

(Being reprinted because it is important!)

“The rugged road of Scouting is for those who stand the test”...this is not only the Troop 122 song but needs to be looked at for why young men join Boy Scouts. We have a large number of Life Scouts in our Troop. This is a nice problem to have but presents us with a dilemma. Their ages range from 12-17. We have to ask ourselves, “Is a Scout that is 12-14 years of age ready to take on the challenge of the Eagle Scout project and rank advancement?”. Having been involved in Scouting for 15 years, my opinion is “no”. There may be an exception to this on rare occasion but not very often. Scouting tries to develop these young boys into young men with a solid foundation of skills and values that will last a lifetime. Remember, the Troop is Scout/Boy led. It is our desire that these young boys/men develop their leadership skills, learn to teach and pass on what they have learned to others that follow in their footsteps. If you look at our Troop neckerchief you will see the emblem of an acorn and an eagle. This represents the new scout coming into our Troop as a seed, a young man that will grow like a strong oak tree while “branching” out and experiencing many disciplines and skills then developing into an Eagle Scout when the time is right- leadership and skills have been demonstrated over time. Has your son independently, without your immediate assistance, proven his leadership abilities? Has he successfully led his fellow Scouts? Has he had a chance to “fail safely” at a Scouting activity, and then learned from that mistake? Eagle rank is also a reflection of mature character. Good character is developed as a result of being tested by life's experiences.

Scouts of Troop 122 and parents, I ask you to thoroughly examine if you, or your son is ready. Are you in the Scouting Program to get the “Eagle Badge”, or to receive what the Eagle rank represents and has to offer? If you, or your Scout don't feel that the Scout is capable of making the phone calls to the Scout Leaders to arrange this, plan the entire project, communicate the project, execute the project, and report on the project with little help from the parent, then I ask you if he is really ready to take on the responsibilities of an Eagle Scout. Scouts, you should step up and ask for help, ask for leadership positions in our Troop, demonstrate your willingness to help younger Scouts, participate in Troop activities and meetings.

Parents, you should encourage your Scout to do these things. If they aren't ready, there will come a time when it will be more important to them. Please take the time to talk with your Scout about the “Value” that Scouting offers them. We should not rush them through the program because they are involved in sports, extracurricular activities, etc. Scouting is one of the best activities they CAN stay involved in without having to “Try Out”. The benefits are many. Please allow your Scout to experience everything it is meant to offer.

Sean Michael, Lead Eagle Scout Advisor

Allen Robertson, Eagle Scout Advisor

Jeff Cochran, Eagle Scout Advisor